

very large. In proportion to the development of this cusp the laminae are themselves tilted backwards internally, while the outer cusps are reduced in size.

Type. *Pseudomys* (*Leggadina*) *forresti* (*Mus forresti*, Thos.).

Other species :—

Ps. delicatulus, Gould.

Ps. hermannsburgensis, Waite.

Ps. patrius, Thos. & Dollm.

4. GYOMYS, subg. n.

Size small. Skull as in *Leggadina*.

Molars quite normal; no anterior cingular cusp on m^1 , and the molar laminae quite of the usual murine shape and position.

Type. *Pseudomys* (*Gyomys*) *novæ-hollandiæ* (*Mus novæ-hollandiæ*, Waterh.).

Other species :—*Ps. albo-ciurens*, Gould, and subsp. *squalorum*, Thos. *Ps.* (*Gyomys*) *glaucus*, sp. n. (described in succeeding paper).

LXV.—New Australian Muridæ of the Genus *Pseudomys*. By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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IN working out the genera of Australian Muridæ the following new species have come to light :—

Pseudomys auritus, sp. n.

Hapalotis murinus, Gould, Mamm. Austr. vol. iii. pl. vii. (1855); nec id. P. Z. S. 1845, p. 78.

A large species with long ears.

Size largest of the genus. General appearance very much as in *Ps. lineolatus*, but the ears conspicuously longer. Fur long, soft, and thick; the wool-hairs of back about 14 mm. in length, the longer hairs surpassing them by about 4.5 mm. General colour dark fawn-grey, heavily darkened on the back by the blackish tips of the longer hairs. Under surface soiled buffy, the hairs dark slaty for two-thirds their length, their ends "pinkish buff"; no line of demarcation laterally. Ears very long; proectote black with greyish-white tip, sparse hairs of metentote also greyish white. Hands and

feet silvery white. Tail well haired, brown above, white below.

Skull as usual in the restricted subgenus *Pseudomys*, larger than in any other species. The teeth fairly broad.

Dimensions:—

Head and body (stuffed) 130 mm.; tail (of another specimen) 125; hind foot 32; ear (dry) 26.

Skull: molar series of type 6.4.

Another skull from same locality: greatest length 35.5; basilar length 30; greatest breadth 28.5; nasals 14.8; interorbital breadth 4.5; breadth of brain-case 15.2; palatilar length 18; palatal foramina 9.2; upper molar series 6.3.

Hab. South Australia. Type from Lake Albert.

Type. Adult. B.M. no. 53. 10. 22. 6. Collected by F. Strange; purchased of Mr. Gould. Two specimens and a separate skull. Also two from "S. Australia," presented by Sir George Grey, and one presented by Lord Derby.

The original *Hapalotis murinus*, Gould, was described from New South Wales on a specimen now in the Museum (no. 53. 10. 22. 4). This specimen is allied to, if not identical with, the far earlier *Pseudomys australis*, Gray, and Gould was clearly in error in assigning to the same species the series collected by Mr. Strange at Lake Albert, S. Australia. The former has the ears of about the normal size, while in the latter they are conspicuously larger than usual, and afford a ready means of identifying the present species. No doubt Gould's beautiful plate, which is as nearly perfect as any illustration can be, was drawn mainly from his fresh series from Lake Albert.

Pseudomys (Thetomys) praeconis, sp. n.

A medium-sized blue-grey species with long tail.

Fur rather loose and shaggy, not so soft and fine as in *Ps. albocinereus*, to which this species has a superficial resemblance. Hairs of back about 14 mm. in length, the longer bristles and hairs reaching 18. General colour above "drab-grey," the median dorsal area browner, the sides clearer grey. Flanks slightly buffy. Under surface soiled greyish, the bases of the hairs slaty, the ends dull creamy. Ears long, dark brown. Hands and feet dull whitish. Tail long, well haired, slightly tufted terminally, brown above, blackening towards the tip, whitish on sides and below.

Skull about as large as that of *Ps. gouldi* or *glaucus*, but differing from the latter by the undercut anterior zygoma-root and the anterior supplementary cusp of m^1 characteristic

of *Thomomys*. Supraorbital edges square, neither rounded nor ridged. Palatal foramina long and narrow. Incisors slender, more so than in *Ps. nanus*. Molars light and delicate.

Dimensions of the type (measured in skin):—

Head and body 113 mm.; tail 129; hind foot (wet 26); ear (wet) 21.

Skull: greatest length 30; zygomatic breadth 15; nasals 12; interorbital breadth 4; breadth of brain-case 13·7; palatilar length 13·3; palatal foramina 6·6; upper molar series 4·8.

Hab. Shark's Bay, Western Australia. Type from Peron's Peninsula; a picked-up skull from Bernier Island (*Shortridge*, *p.*).

Type. Old female. B.M. no. 58.12.27.14. Collected by Dr. F. M. Rayner during the voyage of the 'Herald'; presented by the Admiralty.

This pretty mouse has a superficial resemblance to *Ps. albocinereus* (which has a local subspecies on Shark's Bay—*Ps. a. squalorum*), but is really more nearly related to the *Ps. nanus* group. It is readily distinguishable by its pale colour and long bicolor tail.

During the Balston exploration of W. Australia, Mr. Shortridge picked up a dried skull of *Ps. praeconis* on Bernier Island, but he thought that the animal had become extinct there. The type was obtained during the historic voyage of the 'Herald' in 1858.

Pseudomys (*Gyomys*) *glaucus*, sp. n.

A large eastern representative of *Ps. albocinereus*.

Size largest of the subgenus. Fur soft and fine; hairs of back about 11–12 mm. in length. General colour pale blue-grey, not so pale as in *albocinereus*; under surface paler grey, the bases of the hairs slaty, their tips greyish white. Ears of medium length, greyish. Hands and feet silvery white; last hind sole-pad small, round. Tail rather longer than head and body, pale brown above, white on the sides and below.

Skull in general characters quite like that of *Ps. albocinereus*, but larger and more robust throughout. Anterior zygomatic plate more projected forward.

Dimensions of the type (measured on the spirit specimen):—

Head and body 93 mm.; tail 111; hind foot 22·5; ear 18.

Skull: greatest length 29; basilar length 22·5; zygo-

matic breadth 14·6; breadth of brain-case 13; palatilar length 12·8; palatal foramina 5·3; upper molar series 4·2.

Hab. South Queensland.

Type. Adult male in spirit. B.M. no. 92. 8. 7. 2. Presented by the Brisbane Museum. A second specimen, without exact locality, in skin.

This is evidently an eastern representative of the beautiful little West Australian *Ps. albocinereus*, with which it shares the general characters and blue-grey colour, but from which it may be readily distinguished by its much greater size.

LXVI.—A new Genus for *Dactylopsila palpator*.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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THE British Museum owes to Mr. Walter Goodfellow a skin with skull of the remarkable marsupial described by Milne-Edwards as *Dactylopsila palpator*^{*}, and a careful study of it leads me to think it should be separated generically from true *Dactylopsila*.

DACTYLONAX, gen. nov.

Type. *Dactylonax palpator* (*Dactylopsila palpator*, M.-Edw.).

General characters as in *Dactylopsila*, but fourth finger much lengthened, very slender, its claw much smaller than those of the other digits.

Skull more bowed and more heavily built than in *Dactylopsila*; muzzle shorter, the zygomata more boldly expanded; posterior nares narrower.

Anterior incisors, both above and below, very much stouter and heavier. Molars more disproportionate in size, the anterior larger and the posterior smaller than in the allied form; last upper molar with three cusps only.

This animal has become specialized in a closely similar way to what has taken place in the Aye-Aye (*Daubentonia*), a single finger lengthened and made slender (presumably for searching for grubs in wood), combined with powerful rodent-like incisors for gnawing the grubs out when found. The ends of the upper incisors in *Dactylonax* are worn off abruptly at the end by friction, not with the lower incisors, which touch them in quite a different part, but with some outside objects, such as tree trunks or boughs.

* *Mém. Cent. Soc. Philom.* p. 173 (1888).